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Extension Service Circular 89 October, 1928

Effectiveness of Extension in Influencing Rural People

Study of 379 Farms and Farm Homes
in Newport, Providence, and
Kent Counties, R. I., 1928

J. M. Stedman and George E. Adams

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service........C. W. WARBURTON *Director*
Office of Cooperative Extension Work...C. B. SMITH *Chief*
Washington, D. C.

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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics

Extension Service Circular 89 October, 1928

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DISTRIBUTION: A copy of this circular has been sent to extension directors, State and assistant State county agent leaders, State and assistant State club leaders, State and assistant State home demonstration leaders, and to agricultural college and experiment station libraries.

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THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXTENSION IN INFLUENCING RURAL PEOPLE

A Study of 379 Farms and Farm Homes in Newport, Providence,

and Kent Counties, R. I., 1928

J. M. Stedman/1 and George E. Adams/2

Introduction

This study was made by the Office of Cooperative Extension Work, United States Department of Agriculture and the Extension Service of the Rhode Island State College in cooperation, for the purpose of obtaining definite information regarding extension accomplishment. In the absence of a better measure of the results of extension teaching, many of which are of an intangible nature, the unit of measurement selected for this study is the extent to which farmers and farm women have been led by extension to make practical use of new or better farm and home practices. An attempt has also been made to learn which of the means and agencies employed in extension have been of greatest influence in bringing about the adoption of improved practices.

Methods of Collecting Data

The data on which this study is based were collected by representatives of the Federal office of Cooperative Extension Work and of the Extension Service of the Rhode Island State College together with the three county agents, none of whom, however, collected data in their own counties. Each farm and farm home in the area selected was visited personally and both the man and woman interviewed (fig. 1a and 1b.) Only farmers and farm women were interviewed. No data were collected from village homes or from the numerous places in the open country which were used as a place of residence and not as a farm, although many owned considerable land, kept a cow, poultry, and had a garden. Only information obtained from the family itself was recorded on the cards.

Area in Three Counties Studied

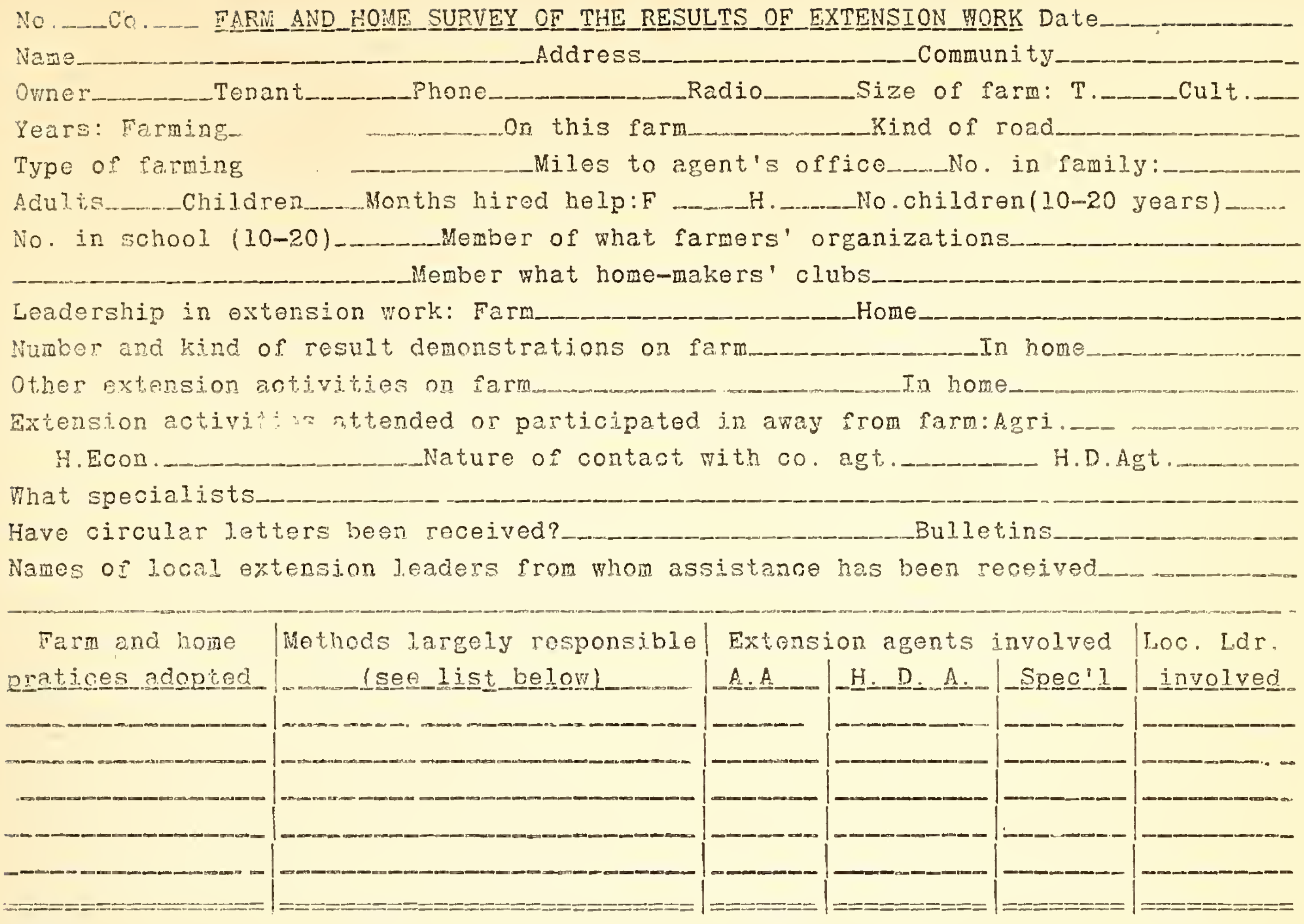
Although there are in all five counties in Rhode Island, there have never been but three county extension offices, one for Newport County, one for Providence and Bristol Counties combined, and one for Kent and Washington Counties combined. Therefore, an area in each county agent's territory was selected as representative of the entire State. The exact location of each territory studied is indicated on the accompanying State map (fig. 2).

Rhode Island is a manufacturing State and is densely populated. Villages are numerous and close together; likewise factories. The nonfarming people live on small acreages between the villages as well as in them and the cities. The result gives one the impression of a land of homes and not farms - farms as generally understood outside of Rhode Island are not numerous. The agricultural interests in Rhode Island are primarily poultry, dairying, truck, small fruit, and small orchards. Feed for both poultry and dairy cattle is largely purchased since it can not all be raised except in rare instances as half of the 379 farms studied contained less than 20 acres.

/1 Assistant, Extension Studies, Office of Cooperative Extension Work, United States Department of Agriculture

/2 Director of Extension Service, Rhode Island State College.

/3 In a few cases where either the man or the woman was not at home, the other was questioned regarding the absent member's work.



No.____Co.____ FARM AND HOME SURVEY OF THE RESULTS OF EXTENSION WORK Date________

Name____________Address____________Community____________

Owner________Tenant________Phone________Radio________Size of farm: T.______Cult.____

Years: Farming________On this farm____________Kind of road____________

Type of farming____________Miles to agent's office_____No. in family:__________

Adults______Children_____Months hired help:F______H.______No.children(10-20 years)______

No. in school (10-20)________Member of what farmers' organizations____________

________________Member what home-makers' clubs________________

Leadership in extension work: Farm________________Home________________

Number and kind of result demonstrations on farm____________In home____________

Other extension activities on farm____________In home____________

Extension activities attended or participated in away from farm:Agri.____________

H.Econ.____________Nature of contact with co. agt.__________ H.D.Agt.__________

What specialists________________________

Have circular letters been received?________________Bulletins____________

Names of local extension leaders from whom assistance has been received__________

Farm and home pratices adopted	Methods largely responsible (see list below)	Extension agents involved			Loc. Ldr. involved
		A.A	H. D. A.	Spec'l	

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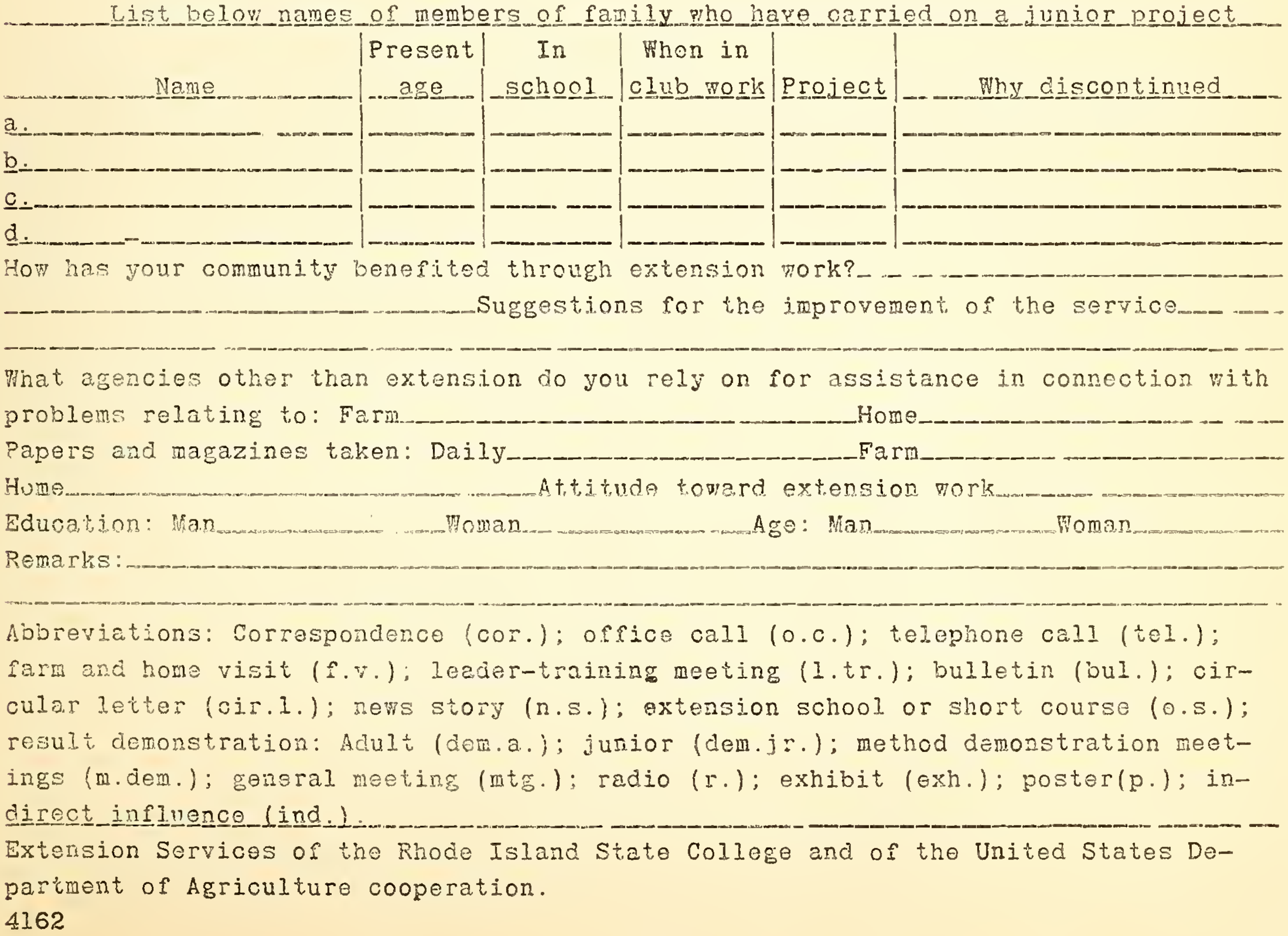
Fig. 1a. - Obverse side of questionnaire card used in collecting data



List below names of members of family who have carried on a junior project

Name	Present age	In school	When in club work	Project	Why discontinued
a.					
b.					
c.					
d.					

How has your community benefited through extension work?________________

________________Suggestions for the improvement of the service________

What agencies other than extension do you rely on for assistance in connection with problems relating to: Farm________________Home________________

Papers and magazines taken: Daily________________Farm________________

Home________________Attitude toward extension work________________

Education: Man____________Woman____________Age: Man__________Woman__________

Remarks:________________________

Abbreviations: Correspondence (cor.); office call (o.c.); telephone call (tel.); farm and home visit (f.v.); leader-training meeting (l.tr.); bulletin (bul.); circular letter (cir.l.); news story (n.s.); extension school or short course (e.s.); result demonstration: Adult (dem.a.); junior (dem.jr.); method demonstration meetings (m.dem.); general meeting (mtg.); radio (r.); exhibit (exh.); poster(p.); indirect influence (ind.).

Extension Services of the Rhode Island State College and of the United States Department of Agriculture cooperation.

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Fig. 1b. - Reverse side of questionnaire card used in collecting data

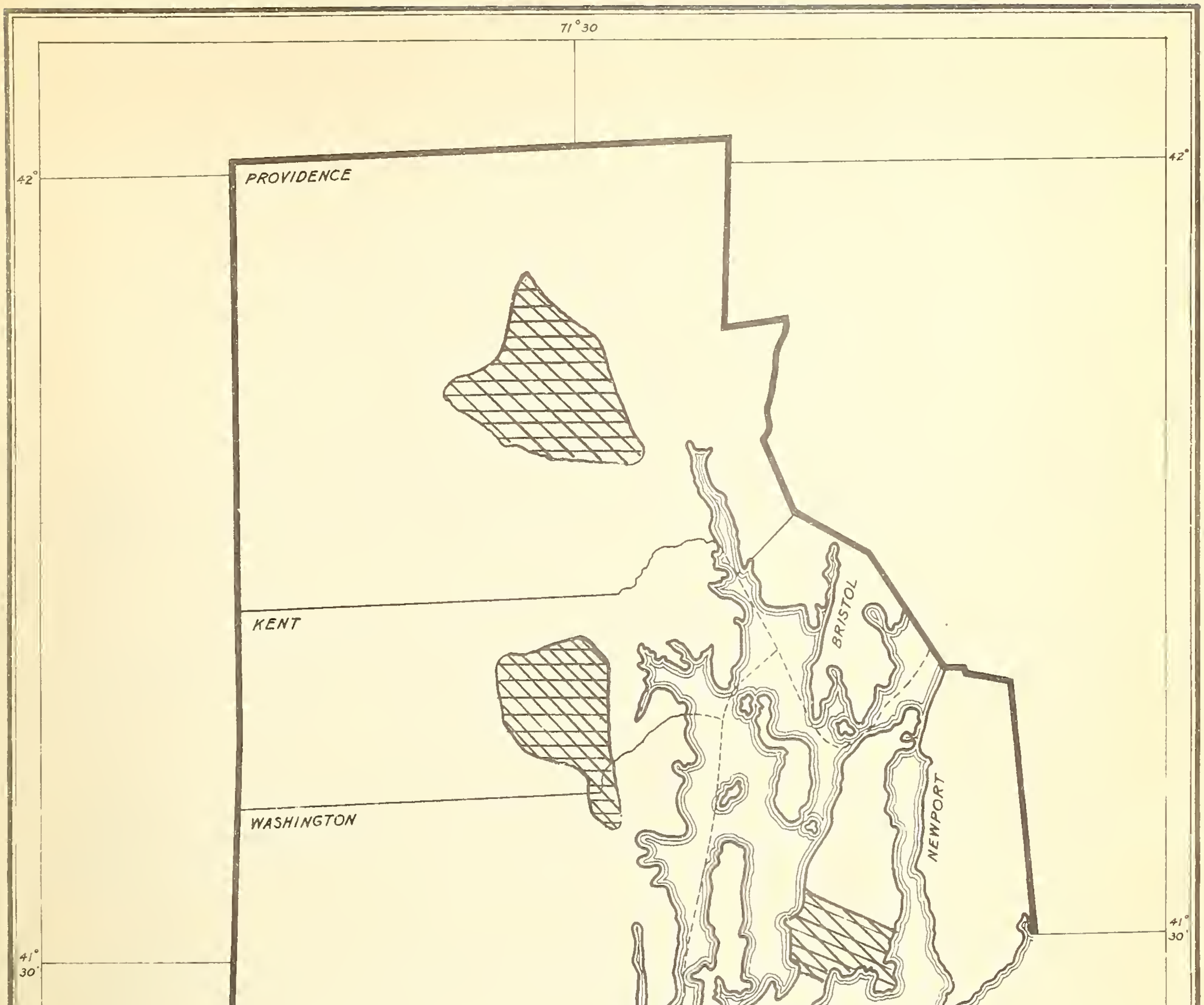

Fig. 2. - Area included in study
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History of County Agent Work

Washington and Kent Counties are served by the same office and have had county agricultural agents practically continuously since October, 1915, with home demonstration agents most of the time from August, 1917, to June, 1925, and a club agent for about one year, 1918-19.

Providence and Bristol Counties are likewise combined as regards agents. They have had county agricultural agents almost continuously since April, 1916, and with the exception of about two years have had home demonstration agents from September, 1919, to August 1927. Club agents have functioned only during the summer of 1917.

Newport County by itself has had an agricultural agent since July, 1917, the present one being the fourth. A home demonstration agent was employed most of the time from February, 1921, to July, 1924, and a club agent was employed from May, 1918, to June, 1919.

For brevity 43 emergency club agents, 5 emergency assistant county agents, as well as 12 emergency assistant home demonstration agents have been omitted from Table 1. All these people served only for short periods of from 1 to 3 months each, mostly during 1917, 1918, and 1919.

Table 1. - Extension agents employed with periods of service

Agricultural agent	Home demonstration agent	Boys' and girls' club agent
	Newport County	
L. W. Lloyd July 1,1917 to Aug.31,1918	Annie S. Hoxsie Aug.23,1917 to June 30,1919	Grace W. Coyne May 24,1918 to June 30,1919
S. D. Hollis Oct.1, 1918 to Aug.31,1920	Marjorie W. Chance Dec.15,1917 to Jan.19,1918 Feb. 1,1919 to Apr.30,1919	
J. E. Knott Oct.13,1920 to June 30, 1923	Mrs. G. L. Lloyd Apr.22,1918 to Sept.15,1918	
S. D. Hollis July 1, 1923 to present	Ruth G. Murray June 1,1918 to Dec.24,1920	
	Daisy E. Harrison Feb.7,1921 to July 26,1921	
	Mrs. D. C. Knott Dec. 1, 1921 to May 31, 1923	
	Laura M. Piedaline June 18,1923 to July 8,1924	
	Providence and Bristol Counties	
David Elder Apr.1,1916 to Oct.31,1917	Sarah H. LeValley Apr.15,1918 to June 30,1919	H. E. Beane July 1,1917 to Aug.31,1917
E. H. Forristall Jan.11,1918 to June 30,1918	Elizabeth Brown July 1,1918 to June 30,1919	L. A. Whipple July 1,1917 to Oct.31,1917
H. H. Hawes Feb. 1,1919 to Jan.22,1923	Madeline Shaw Apr.24,1918 to June 30,1919	H. W. Howes Sept. 1,1917 to Oct.31,1917
T. E. McLaughlin July 1,1923 to Feb.28,1927	Elizabeth H. Browne Sept.1,1919 to July 15,1921	
W. H. Wood Oct.17,1927 to present	Mrs. R. M. Cruickshank Sept.1,1923,to Feb.14,1924	
	Mrs. V. P. MacFawn Feb.15,1924 to Sept.8,1925	
	A. M. Russell Sept.14,1925 to Aug.31,1927	
	Washington and Kent Counties	
S. N. Stinson Oct.1,1915 to June 30,1917	Ida L. Harding Aug.27,1917 to June 30,1919	Irving C. Phillips May 24,1918 to June 30,1919
A. G. Skinner July 1,1917 to Oct.31,1917	Mrs. R. M. Cruickshank Sept.1,1921 to June 30,1923	
F. G. Comins Jan.1,1918 to Sept.30,1920	Norma D. Kinne July 1,1923 to June 27,1925	
F. S. Madison May 1,1921 to Mar.31,1927		
A. A. Thornton Apr.4,1927 to present		

General Information Regarding Farms and Homes Included in Study

Of the 379 farms studied 89 per cent owned their farms while the 11 per cent remaining were tenants (Table 2). More than half (53 per cent) of all the farms consisted of 20 acres or less, and only 9 per cent were over 60 acres in extent. Forty per cent of the farms were on improved (gravel or hard surface) roads; 66 per cent had telephones; and 63 per cent had radios. The farms were located at an average distance of 6 miles from the county extension office. Children of club age (10 to 20 years old) were found on 40 per cent of the farms.

Table 2. - General information relating to farms included in study

Item	Number	Per cent
Farm and home records obtained	379	—
Farms operated by owners	338	89
Farms operated by tenants	41	11
Farms with children 10 to 20 years of age	152	40
Children 10 to 20 years of age	340	—
Average size of farm (acres) cultivated	29	—
Homes with telephones	253	66
Homes with radios	238	63
Farms located on improved roads	153	40
Average distance to county extension office (miles)	6.2	—

Membership in Farmers' and Home-Makers' Associations

The grange and the farm bureau were the two leading farmers' associations in the area studied, 27 per cent and 21 per cent of the farmers, respectively, being members of these organizations (Table 3). Only 3 per cent of the farm women were members of home-economics clubs.

Table 3. - Membership in farmers' and home-makers' associations

Association	Percentage of farms and homes represented
Grange	26.9
Farm bureau	20.6
Aquidneck Dairy Association	6.9
Farmers' exchange	6.6
New England Milk Producers' Association	5.8
Rhode Island Poultry Association	2.6
Home-economics club	2.9
Miscellaneous organizations	11.6

Papers and Magazines Taken

Daily papers came regularly to 81 per cent of the farm homes (Table 4). One or more farm papers were taken by 85 per cent of the farmers. Magazines containing home-economics information were subscribed to by 40 per cent of the farm women.

Table 4. - Papers and magazines taken

Per cent taking a daily paper	81.0
Per cent taking a farm paper	84.7
Average number of farm papers taken	2.0
Per cent taking a home-economics magazine	40.4
Average number of home-economics magazines taken	1.5

Participation in Extension Activities and Contact with Extension Workers

Local extension leaders were contributed from 7 per cent of the farms and homes (Table 5). Some formal extension activity, such as a result demonstration, a method demonstration, a meeting of the home demonstration club group, and the like had been conducted on 15 per cent of the farms and in 7 per cent of the homes. An additional 27 per cent of the farmers and 10 per cent of the farm women had attended such extension activities on other farms, in neighboring homes or at community centers. Boys and girls from 8 per cent of the homes had at some time or other carried on a 4-H club project. Personal contact with the agricultural agent was reported by 52 per cent of the farmers. Eleven per cent of the farm women had made contact with the home demonstration agent. Representatives of 41 per cent of the farm families reported having been in touch with subject-matter specialists from the college.

Table 5. - Participation in extension activities and contact with extension workers

Item	Number	Per cent
Farm and home records obtained	379	---
Farms and homes contributing local leaders	26	7
Farms contributing local leaders (agriculture)	21	6
Farms contributing local leaders (home economics)	8	2
Farms on which agricultural extension activities were conducted	58	15
Other farms represented in agricultural extension activities	103	27
Homes in which home-economics extension activities were conducted	27	7
Other homes represented in homeeconomics extension activities	36	10
Farms and homes represented in any extension activity	179	47
Farms with boys and girls in club work	30	8
Farmers or home makers reporting contact with:		
Any extension worker	245	65
County agent	196	52
Home demonstration agent	42	11
Subject-matter specialist	155	41
Local extension leader	17	4

Farms and Homes Adopting Practices

Some farm or home practice taught by the extension service was reported adopted on 206 of the 379 farms, or 54 per cent of those studied, and these 206 farms averaged an adoption of 2.6 practices per farm. Separating the farm and home practices we find that 196 farmers or 52 per cent had adopted an average of 2.5 agricultural practices while 28 farm women or 7 per cent had adopted an average of 1.6 home-economics practices (Table 6). A detailed list of each practice adopted in agriculture and home economics as well as the number of farms or homes involved and the percentage of the total 379 farms and homes studied is given in Table 7.

Table 6. - Farms and homes adopting practices

Item	Number	Per cent
Farm records obtained	379	--
Farms on which some practice had been changed	206	54
Average number practices changed per farm	2.6	
Farms on which agricultural practices had been changed	196	52
Average number agricultural practices changed per farm	2.5	
Homes in which home-economics practices had been changed	28	7
Average number home-economics practices changed per home	1.6	

Table 7. - Agricultural and home-economics practices reported adopted

Practice	Number of farms or homes involved	Percentage of all farms or homes
Orchard spraying	54	14.2
Orchard pruning	44	11.6
Use of lime	42	11.1
Dairy feeding	33	8.7
Poultry culling	30	7.9
Purebred bull	25	6.6
Fertilizers	21	5.5
Alfalfa	21	5.5
Poultry diseases	20	5.3
Dairy management	18	4.7
Grow healthy chicks	17	4.5
Poultry management	17	4.5
Poultry feeding	16	4.2
Caponizing	14	3.7
Cow testing	10	2.6
Orchard thinning	8	2.1
Clover	7	1.8
Grafting	6	1.6
Insect control	6	1.6
Poultry housing	5	1.3
Calf raising	5	1.3
Pasture improvement	5	1.3
Vegetable growing	5	1.3
Soil testing	4	1.1
Poultry testing	4	1.1
Rodent control	4	1.1
Orchard cultivation	4	1.1
Miscellaneous livestock	18	4.7
Miscellaneous crops	18	4.7
Miscellaneous agriculture	9	2.4
Home economics		
Clothing	15	4.0
Sewing	6	1.6
Millinery	5	1.3
Miscellaneous home economics	19	5.0

Relative Influence of Extension Methods

Of the 535 instances of improved practices reported adopted by farmers and farm women on 206 of the 379 farms studied, 490 relate to agriculture and 45 to home economics. In connection with each of these practices, information was obtained regarding the means and agencies employed in extension teaching which had in any way been responsible. In many instances, the better practice was definitely traceable to a single means while in others the adoption of the practice was due to the cumulative influence of several means. In Table 8 the relative frequency with which the various means and agencies were reported is given. It is interesting to note that for agricultural practices, the farm visit was reported as having contributed to the adoption of 43.1 per cent of the practices. Circular letters were next in importance with 28.2 per cent of the agricultural practices involved, followed by method demonstration meetings which influenced 20.6 per cent of the practices. In home-economics practices, the influence of the method demonstration meeting was outstanding with 91.1 per cent of the practices involved. The general meetings come next with 31.1 per cent of the practices influenced. Indirect spread of information from one neighbor to another was mentioned in connection with nearly 9 per cent of agricultural practices but does not seem to have been an influence in the adoption of home-economics practices. One must keep in mind that the adoption of a single practice may have involved two or more means and agencies and more than one kind of extension worker.

Table 8. - Relative frequency with which extension methods were reported

Method	Percentage of practices adopted		
	Total	Agriculture	Home economics
Farm and home visits	39.6	43.1	2.2
Circular letters	26.7	28.2	11.1
Method demonstration meetings	26.6	20.6	91.1
Indirect	7.9	8.6	
General meetings	9.9	8.0	31.1
Bulletins	6.9	7.6	
Correspondence	6.7	7.3	
Adult result demonstrations	6.5	7.1	
Office calls	2.4	2.7	
Extension schools	1.1	1.2	
Telephone	0.9	1.0	
News stories	0.4	0.4	
Junior result demonstrations	0.2		2.2

Methods Responsible for Adoption of Practices and Extension Workers Involved

When the various means and agencies are grouped according to their major use whether for publicity, personal service, or object lesson, it will be noted that publicity methods influenced 44 per cent of the practices, personal-service methods 51 per cent, and object-lesson methods 33 per cent (Table 9). At least partial credit was given to the county agricultural agent for influencing 71 per cent of all practices, the home demonstration agent 6 per cent, and subject-matter specialist 61 per cent.

Table 9.–Methods responsible for adoption of practices and extension workers involved

Item	Number	Per cent
Practices adopted	535	100
Agricultural practices adopted	490	––
Home-economics practices adopted	45	––
Practices influenced by:		
Publicity methods	235	44
Personal-service methods	272	51
Object-lesson methods	178	33
Indirect influences	42	8
Practices influenced by:		
County agent	380	71
Home demonstration agent	31	6
Club agent	––	––
Subject-matter specialist	328	61
Local leader	19	4

On the basis of farmers and farm women influenced to adopt better practices, 51 per cent were influenced by publicity methods, 54 per cent by personal-service methods and 44 per cent by object-lesson methods.

Of the farmers and farm women changing practices 74 per cent were influenced by the agricultural agent, 8 per cent by the home demonstration agent, and 71 per cent by the subject-matter specialists from the college (Table 10). The relatively large direct influence of subject-matter specialists is to a large extent due to the small size of the State.

Table 10. – Methods which influenced farm people to adopt practices and extension workers involved

Item	Number	Per cent
Farms on which some practice had been adopted	206	100
Farms or homes influenced by:		
Publicity methods	106	51
Personal-service methods	112	54
Object-lesson methods	91	44
Indirect influences	24	12
Farms or homes influenced by:		
County agent	153	74
Home demonstration agent	17	8
Club agent	––	––
Subject-matter specialist	147	71
Farms or homes assisted by local leaders	11	5

Land Tenure as Related to Adoption of Practices

Ownership of farms is the rule in the region studied where Table 11 shows that 89 per cent of the farmers operate their own farms. The small number of tenants (only 41 out of 379) may not be a sufficient number for satisfactory comparison, but the tabulation shows that 55 per cent of the farms operated by owners changed practices against 49 per cent of the tenant farms. Ownership appears to have had more bearing on change of practice in the home than on the farm, since 8 per cent of the homes of owners changed practices against 2 per cent of the tenant homes. However, the percentage of farm homes influenced in both groups is very small.

Table 11. - Condition of land occupancy in relation to adoption of practices

Group	Number of farms	Percentage of all farms	Average size	Percentage of farms changing practices			Number of practices changed per 100 farms
				Agriculture	Home economics	Any practice	
Owners	338	89	29	52	8	55	146
Tenants	41	11	27	49	2	49	105

Size of Farm in Relation to Adoption of Practices

Size of farm business apparently has an important influence upon the adoption of improved practices, particularly with reference to agricultural practices (Table 12). The largest farm group as compared to the smallest farm group was reached much more effectively. The percentage of farmers adopting practices was more than twice as great and the number of practices adopted per 100 farms nearly four times as great.

Table 12. - Relation of size of farms to number of farms changing practices

Group	Number of farms	Percentage of all farms	Percentage of farms changing practices			Number of practices changed per 100 farms
			Agriculture	Home economics	Any practice	
1 to 10 acres	119	31	34	7	38	75
11 to 20 acres	84	22	55	6	56	123
21 to 40 acres	100	27	59	7	60	167
41 to 60 acres	43	11	58	7	65	191
Over 60 acres	33	9	76	15	79	285

Relation of Distance of Farms from Extension Office to Change of Practices

Fourteen per cent of the farms in the areas studied were over 10 miles from the agent's office. It appears from Table 13 that 44 per cent of these farms changed practices while 56 per cent of those from 1 to 10 miles distant changed practices. On the basis of number of practices changed per 100 farms, the difference is 79 to 151, indicating that the farmers near the county seat were making greater use of extension information than those farther away. The range of distance involved is too small to be of great significance, however.

Table 13.–Relation of distance of farms from extension office to change of practices

Group	Number of farms	Percentage of all farms	Percentage of farms changing practices			Number of practices changed per 100 farms
			Agriculture	Home economics	Any practice	
1 to 10 miles	327	86	54	8	56	151
Over 10 miles	52	14	40	6	44	79

Nature of Roads in Relation to Change of Practices

Sixty per cent of the farms studied were situated on unimproved and the remainder on gravel or hard surface roads. The difference in the extent to which the two groups were influenced to adopt practices is too slight to be of any particular significance (Table 14).

Table 14. – Nature of roads in relation to change of practices

Group	Number of farms	Percentage of all farms	Percentage of farms adopting practices			Number of practices adopted per 100 farms
			Agriculture	Home economics	Any practice	
Improved roads	153	40	55	5	56	161
Unimproved roads	226	60	50	9	53	128

Education of Farmers and Farm Women as Related to Adoption of Practices

According to Table 15, farmers with some college or high school education adopted agricultural practices in 71 per cent of the cases, whereas those with a common-school education or less adopted practices in 47 per cent of the cases. Farm women as shown by Table 16 adopted home-economics practices in 17 per cent of the cases when a high school or college had been attended, whereas only 5 per cent of those having had a common-school education or less adopted home practices.

Table 15. - Education of farmers as related to adoption of agricultural practices

Educational training	Number	Percentage of all farms	Percentage adopting agricultural practices	Number of agricultural practices adopted per 100 farms
Some high school or college	91	24	71	199
Common school or less	255	76	47	109

Table 16. - Education of farm women as related to adoption of home-economics practices

Educational training	Number	Percentage of all farms	Percentage adopting home-economics practices	Number of home-economics practices adopted per 100 homes
Some high school or college	84	35	17	26
Common school or less	246	65	5	9

Relation of Age to Adoption of Practices

When the farmers are divided into age groups (Table 17) it becomes evident that the younger farmers are making more use of extension practices than are the older men. The difference is slight between the groups 35 years and under and 36 to 45 years, but the percentage of farmers adopting practices drops off materially after 45 years has been reached.

In the case of farm women, all the age groups above 35 years have been influenced to a greater degree than the group of 35 years and under. Such a small proportion of the farm women in all age groups has been reached that the data are not so very indicative.

Age of farmers and farm women would not seem to be a serious bar to the use of farm and home information made available through the extension service.

Table 17. - Relation of age of farmers to adoption of agricultural practices

Age group	Number	Percentage of all farms	Percentage adopting agricultural practices	Number of agricultural practices adopted per 100 farms
35 years and under	64	17	62	150
36 to 45	84	22	60	144
46 to 55	97	26	46	120
56 and over	122	32	43	111

Table 18. - Relation of age of farm women to adoption of home-economics practices

Age group	Number	Percentage of all farms	Percentage adopting home-economics practices	Number of home-economics practices adopted per 100 farms
35 years and under	72	19	4	8
36 to 45	108	29	10	15
46 to 55	95	25	7	15
56 and over	74	19	8	9

Participation in Extension Activities and Contact with Extension Agents as Related to Adoption of Practices

The factors previously considered, such as land tenure, size of farms, educational training and age are largely if not entirely outside the control of extension agents. Whether or not the farmer and the farm woman are led to participate in extension activities or are otherwise brought into contact with extension workers is to a very large extent dependent upon extension agents and the methods they employ.

Where a meeting or demonstration had been held on the farm 91 per cent adopted better practices (Table 19). Where the only activities attended were held on neighboring farms or at community centers, 74 per cent reported the use of better practices. Where no activities had been attended, adoption of practices was reported in but 30 per cent of the cases. The number of practices reported changed per 100 farms was 48 for the last group, 179 for the second group, and 332 for the first group.

If in addition to those who have attended extension activities, there are in the same group those who have in other ways come into touch with extension workers, an even more interesting comparison is made (Table 20). Where some member of the family had had contact with an extension worker through an office call, farm visit, attendance at a meeting or otherwise, the adoption of better practices followed in 80 per cent of the cases. Where no such contact had been made, but 7 per cent of the farms reported better practices adopted. The number of practices changed per 100 farms was 21 times as great for the contact group as for the no-contact group. Both of these tables indicate the great importance of an agent so handling his or her work as to insure wide contacts with farming people and their participation in all kinds of extension activities.

Table 19. – Participation in extension activities as bearing on farms changing practices

Group	Number of farms	Percentage of all farms	Percentage of farms changing practices			Number of practices adopted per 100 farms
			Agriculture	Home economics	Any practice	
Farms having extension activities on farm or in home	77	20	87	20	91	332
Other farms participating in extension activities	102	27	69	12	74	179
Farms not participating in extension activities	200	53	30	1	30	48

Table 20. – Contact with extension workers as related to change of practices

Group	Number of farms	Percentage of all farms	Percentage of farms adopting practices			Number of practices adopted per 100 farms
			Agriculture	Home economics	Any practice	
Farms having made contact with extension workers	245	65	76	11	80	213
Farms having made no contact	134	35	7	0	7	10

Extent and Influence of 4-H Club Work

Of the 379 farms studied 151 or 40 per cent had children of club age (10 to 20 years) and they numbered 340, or an average of 2¼ children of club age to the family. Only 30 families had ever had children in club work or 8 per cent of the total, while the total number of boys and girls 10 to 20 years of age who had ever been in club work was 47 or 13.8 per cent of the total. Only one-fifth of 1 per cent of all farm and home practices adepted was reported as a result of the influence of junior result demonstrations (Table 21).

Table 21. – Farms and children in junior project work

Farm and home records obtained	379
Percentage of families with children of club age (10 to 20 years)	40
Number of children of club age	340
Number of families with boys and girls in 4-H clubs (ever)	30
Percentage of families with children in club work (ever)	8
Number of 4-H club members (ever)	47
Percentage of boys and girls (10 to 20 years) in club work (ever)	13.8
Percentage of boys and girls (10 to 20 years) in club work, 1927	9.4
Average age of club members – 1927	13.8
Percentage of 1927 club members not in school	9.4
Percentage of all practices adopted due to influence of junior result demonstrations	0.2

Attitude Toward Extension

As an indication of the general esteem in which the extension service is regarded among farmers and farm women as shown by this study (Table 22), it will be noted that only one person in 100 is opposed to the work and only one in five is indifferent, the remaining 78 per cent being classed as favorable to cooperative extension work.

Table 22. - Attitude toward extension

Item	Number	Percentage
Farm records obtained	379	100
Families reported favorable	294	78
Families reported indifferent	81	21
Families reported opposed	4	1

Agencies Other Than Extension Relied on for Assistance

Replies to the question, "What agencies other than extension do you rely on for assistance in connection with problems relating to farm and home?" indicate (Table 23) that one farmer in every two derived help from farm papers and magazines. One farmer in four mentioned own experience. Neighbors were reported as a source of information by about one farmer in 12. In home-economics practices, home magazines were mentioned as a source of information by approximately one woman in four. Own experience was next in importance with one woman in 11 reporting.

Table 23. - Agencies other than extension relied on for assistance

Agency	Percentage of farms	Percentage of homes
Farm papers and home magazines	50.9	24.8
Own experience	25.9	9.0
Neighbors	8.2	1.1
Books	5.8	1.1
Dealers	1.3	
Veterinary	0.5	
Miscellaneous	7.4	1.8

Summary

This study is based upon 379 farm and home records obtained from a typical area in each of the three territories covered by county agents in Rhode Island and is believed to be typical of extension conditions throughout the entire State.

One or more agricultural practices had been adopted or changed as a direct or indirect result of extension teaching on 52 per cent of the farms, and home-economics practices in 7 per cent of the homes. Practices involved in orchard, dairy and poultry operations constituted practically all those adopted or changed in agriculture.

The most important methods of teaching responsible for the adoption of practices were farm visits, circular letters, method demonstration meetings, general meetings, indirect spread, bulletins, correspondence, and adult result demonstrations.

Ownership of farms operated does not appear to be responsible for much increase in number of practices adopted, except in home economics where ownership resulted in the adoption of more practices.

The size of the farm appears to have an influence on the adoption of practices since this study shows that the percentage of farms over 60 acres adopting practices was twice as great as that of farms from 1 to 10 acres.

Farms within 10 miles from the agent's office had twice the number of practices changed per 100 farms as those over 10 miles.

Seventy-one per cent of the farmers with high school or college training changed practices against 47 per cent of those with only a common-school education. Seventeen per cent of the high school or college educated women changed practices against 5 per cent with only a common-school training.

The percentage of farmers adopting practices was somewhat less for farmers over 45 years of age than for those under 45 years. With the women, age had an even smaller influence upon the adoption of practices.

Participation in extension activities on their own farms or in their own homes resulted in 91 per cent adopting practices. Seventy-four per cent of farms or homes participating in extension activities away from their own farms or homes adopted practices. Only thirty per cent of the farms or homes which did not participate in any extension activity adopted practices.

Still more important appears to be the influence that contact with an extension worker exerts on the adoption of practices since this study shows that 80 per cent of those farmers and farm women having had contact with extension workers have adopted practices against only 7 per cent of those not having had such contact.

Forty per cent of the farms had children of club age (10 to 20 years) averaging 2¼ children each, only 9.4 per cent of whom were in club work in 1927.

Only 1 per cent of all farms were opposed to extension work, while 78 per cent were favorable, the remaining 21 per cent being indifferent.

Farm papers, magazines, own experience, and neighbors were given as the agencies other than extension relied on mostly for advice and assistance.

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